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### TRADING-STAMP MAIL-ORDER HOUSE

1217-R Market Street, Philadelphia

Reference: Bank of Commerce, Philadelphia

a looking thing was this that you have lost?"

She described the diamond necklace. "Ah," said the zoologist, "for several days my baboon has had in his possession, generally worn about his neck, a similar thing to that described."

"But why did you not tell me?" his wife exclaimed in indignation.

"Why," answered Saint-Hilaire, "I supposed that it belonged to him. He seemed to be very fond and proud of it."

**LORD DE TABLEY**, poet and naturalist, used to delight in telling the following story of himself. He was an enthusiastic botanist, and one day, sauntering down Piccadilly, met a friend who told him where a specimen of a rare plant had been found.

De Tabley beckoned to a cabman and bade him drive to Chelsea. Chelsea was at that time a quiet old suburb. De Tabley ordered the driver to cross a meadow and stop by a ditch. He jumped out, plunged ankle-deep in the mud, searched for a few moments, found the tiny treasure, pocketed it, and getting into the cab, called out, "Home!"

But the cabman looked at him thoughtfully a moment, and then, with a nod of comprehension, drove rapidly back to Piccadilly and into the courtyard of a private madhouse.

"Here he is!" he cried to the porter. "I've got him!"

It was with difficulty that the porter convinced him that Lord De Tabley was not an escaped lunatic.

**OF** that form of eccentricity closely related to egotism, whereby many of the world's greatest artists and writers have conveyed to us their appreciation of their own work, a most interesting case is that of Thackeray, ordinarily a most modest man. But there is good authority that Thackeray never passed the house in Russell Square wherein he lived when he wrote "Vanity Fair" without raising his hat,—a tribute from himself to his great work.

**WHEN** the younger Dumas read the manuscript of "Camille" to his father, that great romancer was much moved by this evidence of the genius of his son. "Alexandre," he is reported to have said, with tears in his eyes and great solemnity in his voice, "you have composed a work that will live as long as my own!"

In this connection one is reminded of the period in the famous storyteller's career when, at the height of his vogue, he could not turn out his tales fast enough to satisfy his clamoring publishers, and it became necessary for him to employ collaborators, to whom he sketched the plot, perhaps, leaving them to do the rest. Among the most distinguished was Paul Meurice, who died not many years ago at an advanced age.

Thus it came about that Meurice was the author of one of the most amusing novels of Dumas, "Les Deux Dianas." Dumas when traveling found this novel in a hotel and opened it to pass away the time. He began reading it seriously, got interested in it, and was amused. Presently someone came to his room and found him with "Les Deux Dianas" in his hand.

"I am reading," said Dumas, in response to a question, "a novel of my own which I did not know, and which pleases me vastly."

It was Dumas who said when left to himself, "I am never bored when I have my own company."

**THE** eccentricities of Dickens included an exceeding fondness for gaudy jewelry, of which he wore a great quantity. Not only were his fingers covered with a considerable number of rings brilliantly set, but his person was adorned with all kinds of flashy gems. He specially delighted in his two watches, one in each lower pocket of his waistcoat, across which stretched a huge chain.

### A MICROPHONE DETECTOR

**IN** France an ingenious application has been made of the microphone in order to detect firedamp in mines. This is the principle of the application:

If sound waves from two pipes of equal pitch impinge on microphones connected in series with a telephone, a clear note is heard; but if one of the pipes emits a slightly different note, beats will be heard in the telephone. Here is the application:

One pipe is placed in the mine, the other above ground, and they are blown simultaneously. If the air in the mine is charged with firedamp, it will produce a different note from that produced by clear air, owing to the difference of density, and in consequence a series of beats in the telephone gives warning of the presence of firedamp. The same apparatus is very sensitive to the presence of coal gas.

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